

he was under constant observation—no soreness, no temperature, no complaint except constant vomiting of everything taken into stomach, and a gradually mounting pulse rate. Second day I advised exploratory operation but patient refused, and symptoms did not seem to warrant anything but watchful waiting. Third evening the man screamed out with pain and in less than half an hour was dead. Permission for post mortem was obtained from the coroner—findings: Liver—dark blue as from general bruise and a three inch rupture along the great vessels of the hilus; about a pint of bloody fluid in the abdomen; Ileum, about two feet from cecum was torn away from the mesenteric attachment for four inches and the part gangrenous—no pus in abdomen and no adhesions. Immediate death from embolism of the heart.

But space forbids me going on in this strain indefinitely, so let me end with a contrast in baby cases.

December 10. Primipara, a big healthy young girl full of life and "pep." She got up at 6 o'clock on the 10th, cooked her husband's breakfast. At 7 o'clock her bowels moved. At 7:30 they moved again. At 8:00 they felt as if they wanted to move again which seemed rather queer to the lady—but they did move, yet to be safe she reported to me. I got on the job in a half hour and she had one unmistakable labor pain, and the baby was in the bed, an eight-pound girl. So life and work goes in the country.

Medicine Before The Bench

In this column will appear with appropriate comment, from month to month, court decisions and proceedings affecting the various phases of medical practice, the conduct of hospitals and the enforcement of public health laws.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS AGAIN UPHOLD

Dr. John K. Suckow of Los Angeles was tried and found guilty by the Board of Medical Examiners for unprofessional conduct. His license was suspended for one year.

Dr. Suckow attacked the board's authority and decision in the Superior Court of Los Angeles County, alleging that the suspension of his license was in excess of the jurisdiction of the board, and that the law under which the board purported to act was unconstitutional; that the complaint against him was insufficient and the charges were not proven.

This array of objections was overruled by Superior Judge Jackson of Los Angeles, and the action of the board sustained.

Dr. Suckow appealed from Judge Jackson's decision, and the Appellate Court, in a decision handed down by Justice Shaw and concurred in by Justices Lawlor and Olney, has affirmed the procedure of the board in every particular, declaring the Act of 1913 regulating the practice of medicine as constitutional.

The constitutional character and power of the Board of Medical Examiners, and other similar boards are frequently questioned by those receiv-

ing or fearing adverse action. The Appellate Court disposes of this familiar objection to the board in these words: "It is now well established in this State that tribunals such as the Board of Medical Examiners or other boards empowered to revoke licenses which they have previously granted, for cause defined by the law, are not courts in the strict sense; they are not exercising 'the judicial power of the State' as that phrase is used in the constitution conferring judicial power upon courts, and that statutes creating such boards and conferring upon them such powers are constitutional."

To criticize the board and charge it with arbitrary action indicates ignorance or prejudice. Those who are informed know that whenever the Board of Medical Examiners exercises quasi-judicial power that its decisions are subject to review by the courts. The courts are open to others just the same as they were to Dr. Suckow.

The chief points raised in the case, as the decision cites, were raised in the case of *Lanterman v. Anderson*, 36 Cal. App., 472, and were decided adversely at that time. Roy S. Lanterman's license was revoked in 1916, after the board heard testimony relative to a criminal abortion.

As an interesting coincidence of the Appellate court's reference to this case, the board has just received a petition to restore the license of Lanterman. The petition urging the board to take favorable action is signed by prominent residents of La Canada who, doubtless, are not familiar with the court record.

State Board of Medical Examiners

COLLECTED CLIPPINGS ON MEDICAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Dr. A. J. Landis, well-known physician of Chico arrested January 13, 1920, charged with violation of the State drug laws in the illegal sale of narcotics.

A similar charge was brought against Dr. Landis in April, 1911, but dismissed.

Chico Enterprise, 1/8/20.

Linden T. D. McCash, chiropractor (one of the incorporators of the Alameda County chiropractic association) was held to answer to the Superior Court on a charge of violating the medical act. Bail in the amount of \$100.00 was furnished by Mrs. J. Stitt Wilson, wife of the former mayor of Berkeley and Mrs. Ben. Wilson.

Berkeley Gazette, 1/14/20.

County Health Officer Pomeroy of Los Angeles swore to a complaint on January 8, 1920, charging Dr. James A. Gafford of Huntington Park for alleged failure to report two births, which by law must be reported within 36 hours.

Los Angeles Express, 1/8/20.

Poo On and B. T. Gum, Chinese herb doctors of Modesto arrested for traffic in narcotics.

Modesto Herald, 12/30/19.

Each was recently arrested for violation of the medical practice act for the second time in three months.

Fresno Republican, 1/21/20.

The trial of Poo On, Chinese herb specialist of Modesto, charged with practicing without a license, is set for February 25, 1920. He is represented by former Assemblyman Maddux.

Turlock Tribune, 1/16/20.

The following licensed practitioners of California have been cited to appear before the Board of Medical Examiners at the meeting in Los Angeles, February 17, 1920, to show cause why their license should not be revoked:

Steele, Gertrude F., Los Angeles, (Naturopath); McMath, J. G., Gardina, Cal.;